



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jan H. Gardner
County Executive

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
November 30, 2017

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County Executive Gardner Announces Ethics Bill

FREDERICK, MD – County Executive Jan Gardner announced today that she and State Senator Michael Hough have successfully merged their two ethics legislative proposals and will be advancing [one ethics bill](#) during the upcoming General Assembly session.

“Frederick County has the strongest ethics provisions in the state and the only independent non-political process for appointments of Ethics Commission members. Frederick County leads the way in ensuring that our citizens can trust the decisions of their county elected officials and know what is happening in county government,” commented Executive Gardner. “I am pleased to reach a consensus with Senator Hough so that we can work together to strengthen the state ethics laws that apply to Frederick County.”

The new bill expands the definition of an applicant in a land use case to include not just the applicant, but others such as a land use attorney, engineer or traffic consultant. An applicant and identified agents will be prohibited from making campaign contributions to decision makers during the pendency of their application before the County Council and Planning Commission. They also will be subject to ex parte disclosure provisions as they are now.

At Senator Hough’s request, the bill would also require members of the Board of Appeals, Ethics Commission, Liquor Board and Planning Commission to step down within 48 hours of opening a campaign account.

To learn more or comment on the proposed ethics bill or other legislation, citizens may attend the State Delegation’s annual public hearing at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2, in the first floor hearing room of Winchester Hall, 12 E. Church Street.

The hearing will be broadcast live on FCG TV, cable channel 19, and webcast at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/video.

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